TIMES-VIRGINIAN

In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt

Appomattox, Virginia

GIRLS' PEACE SOCIETY

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Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Robinson ..... *Editors and Publishers*

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EDITORIAL OPINION

PEOPLE MOVING ABOUT

It is estimated that the population of New York City is now 8,050,000 with an increase of 160,000 since the 1950 census. That is not a large increase for so great a city. However, the interesting angle to the population change of our largest city in recent years, is the shift in make-up of that population.

It is estimated that the number of persons under 15 increased by 145,000 since 1950, and the number over 65 increased by 165,000. To offset this, the number of persons between 15 and 65, went down by 150,000 since 1950.

It is also interesting to note that New York City's white population decreased by 165,000 since 1950. To add to the data, the estimate is that the non-white group went up by 84,000. And then add in an increase from Puerto Rico of an estimated 239,000.

Manhattan and Brooklyn had decreases in population, the former borough falling off by 2.6 per cent, and Brooklyn 1 per cent.

In Manhattan, the white population fell off by 10.3 per cent, but Manhattan had an increase of 72.7 per cent in Puerto Ricans.

The Bronx had a hike of 109.7 per cent in Puerto Ricans, an increase of 18.6 in non-whites and a drop of 2.9 per cent in whites.

Brooklyn had an increase in this short period of 162.5 per cent in its Puerto Rican population. And so the estimates go.

It would seem that native white populations are moving away to the suburbs, and that non-whites are increasing in the old congested town areas.

HAVE YOU READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?

It would be our guess that more good books are being read than ever before. The answer to that old question: "Have you read any good books" could well be a resounding "Yes."

We have at hand a table showing statistics for public libraries in Virginia, 1953-1954. The table is broken down by county libraries, city libraries, town libraries and demonstration and regional libraries. It adds up to total of circulation of 4,528,101.

However, these figures do not tell the full story of the number of books read in Virginia. Surely, individual purchases of volumes at book stores and other sales outlets have been greater than ever, and the distribution of the new lesser priced pocket editions of standard books has been a phenomenon of the post-war period. Our guess is that Virginians are reading well over a book a month, an the average.

PROSPEROUS AMERICA

(The New York Times)

The first quarter of 1955 ended last week, and already it is evident that these three months will enter into our economic history as three months of great prosperity. All but the most optimistic of prophets must confess to a sense of pleased amazement at the record that has been rolled up—a record made even more impressive by the fact that it was essentially based upon production for the needs of human beings rather than the demands of destruction as during Second World War or the Korean War. Automobile production during the first quarter set a new record in excess of 2,129,000 cars, and automobile dealers sold more cars last month than in any month in history. Steel production has for some time been appreciably above 90 per cent of capacity, while in copper, aluminum and other materials the pressure of demand has even forced prices up.

Behind these and similar statistics that could be cited are the more basic facts about human activities these data reflect. The overwhelming majority of us who want jobs have jobs; millions of us are enjoying new automobiles, new television sets and other conveniences purchased these past three months with money in our pockets and confidence in the future, we are thronging to the stores to buy the infinite variety of goods we desire and with which our fantastically productive economy supplies us. At the same time we have enough margin to maintain an expensive defense effort and provide aid to our friends abroad. We have literally both guns and butter, a phenomenon made possible only by the industry and ingenuity of our people in every area of economic life.

What, one may wonder, do the gloomy observers Pravda employs to look at the American economy make of our present performance? Certainly these must be the most frustrated group of economists in the world. It is now a decade since our eonomy has stubbornly refused to validate the Marxist predictions of post-war economic crisis and crash which Pravda has sounded so frequently. One measure of Pravda's discomfiture was given a month ago when that newspaper felt it necessary to inform its readers there had been a "temporary" rise in the American economy in the last months of 1954. Against the record of the first three months of 1955 even Pravda's gloomiest forecaster may be pardoned if he begins to ask himself how temporary is "temporary."

AMERICA'S WIDENING NEEDS

Secretary of Labor Mitchell has expressed alarm at the lag between the development of industrial machinery and the development of the human skills required to operate that machinery. In Chicago, he told the Research Council for Economic Security that our survival as a nation depends on how well we satisfy "the urgent need to raise the level of the skills of the American work force."

That ought to be obvious. Less obvious, perhaps, are certain related needs. One is to the raise the level of the skills of the American work-directive force. The scientific revolution is beginning to present management with new problems that require the utmost in technical know-how organizational skill, understanding of human relations, and capacity for long-range thinking.

Another need, particularly as fewer hours are required to coax a satisfactory level of production out of the new machines, is a raising of the level of skills of all-round living. Education to produce in working hours and education to live creatively in leisure hours are inextricably linked. Indeed, fulfillment of one need begets the other. A big task faces a nation which would do more than merely survive, a nation which would truly live.

—Dayton, Ohio, Daily News.

LET THE PEOPLE KNOW

University of Colorado medical scientists say radioactive dust from testing superbombs in Nevada is a menace to the public health of Colorado. The government's test scientists in Nevada deny it. Governor Johnson of Colorado denounces the scientists of his own university as "alarmists." It is indeed a serious matter with Colorado about to launch another tourist season—one of its first industries.

Since the Japanese got caught too close to the Pacific test and suffered from an atomic fall-out, there has been uneasiness in the world — in Russia no doubt, same as here.

Concern about atomic dust in effect on weather is now an old story. But people are beginning to wonder if the dust, carried long distances by prevailing winds in the upper atmosphere, might not fall anywhere.

Here is potential panic whenever something unusual or not immediately explainable happens.

It is presumed scientists in charge of test explosions know what they are doing. But the people don't know and the government should tell them in plain words what their calculations are as to the action of radioactive dust. Apparently the scientists think the dust is dissipated so that it cannot fall in lethal or injurious amounts. But they haven't said so with the high authority of the national government behind them.

This is neither the time nor the place for government secrecy. Whatever American leaders know about explosive after-effects, the Russian leaders know. What the people don't know, but might imagine, could be most mischievous.

—The Winchester Star.

POINTS TO PONDER

The late Dr. Charles Steinmetz one of the world's great scientists was once asked what line of research would see the greatest ultimate development. He replied: "The greatest discoveries will be made along spiritual lines. Some day people will learn that material things do not bring happiness and are of little use in making men and women creative and powerful. Then the scientists of the world will turn their laboratories to the study of God and prayer. When the day comes, the world will see more advancement in one generation than it has in the last four."

—Whaley Eaton Service

FOLLOWING THE CUSTOMER

(Selected)

An editorial in Chain Store Age observes that changes are taking place in the retail pattern. As an example, it points to the rapid growth of shopping centers in the last few years. It is estimated that about 1,000 of them are now in operation, while 1,500 to 2,000 more are in the planning or construction stage.

This does not mean that our traditional shopping areas along Main Street in the smaller communities and in the down-town sections of our big cities are growing any less important. They are and no doubt will remain the backbone of our merchandising system. But the new trends show how retail business follows the customer, doing everything it can to serve his needs and desires, and it also shows how competitive the business is.

Chain Store Age touched on that in these words: "What the development certainly means for all retailers is intensified competition, for whether competition stems from a newcomer right across the street or from a shopping center 10 or 15 miles away, it means the same thing and calls for the same ... The new pattern in retailing requires better merchandising ever for those who hope its challenge."

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Richard D. Robinson

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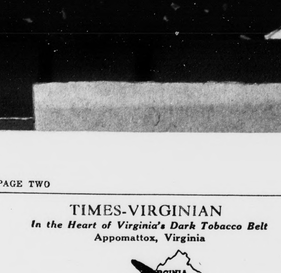

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Spring Mills

Spring Mills, April 5.- We are having beautiful spring weather now, after a season of bad weather.

Mrs. Mabel Bolling has returned from her former home in Kentucky, being called there by the death of her brother, Mr. Picklesimer.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed West and children, of Martinsville, visited in the home of her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. James Ford, recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Hutson Armistead and Jean Armistead visited Clayton Armistead at a camp in Mississippi during the week-end. Clayton's girl friend also accompanied them to Mississippi.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmo Rosser visited relatives in West Virginia during the week-end.

Mrs. Carrie Ford was the dinner guest of Mrs. Nannie Tibbs Sunday.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Al Edwards of Hyattsville, Md., on March 31, a baby girl. Mrs. Edwards is the former Miss Rebecca Owen.

Popular miller, Hunter Harris, is putting out excellent corn meal now. Made from Hickof'- King corn grown on Falling River low ground.

MINERAL DEFICIENCIES CAN CAUSE TROUBLE

Keep a watchful eye on proper nutrition for livestock. VPI scientists warn that mineral deficiences can cause lots of trouble.

Farmers are likely to give prompt attention to mineral deficiences which result in lameness or visible sickness in livestock. However, less noticeable deficiences may cost more in the end. Such deficiences may show up in shy breeding, or may cause the young to be born dead or weak. They may also show up in slower gains, less efficient use of feed, less milk, lighter fleeces, and lower fertility.

However, the scientists say not to go overboard on complex, unnecessary mineral mixes. Call your veterinarian for expert advice.

High yielding crops are important, economically, and otherwise, but animal needs are not necessarily met by growing high-yield-per-acre crops. Fertilizing the soil with minor elements needed only for good crops. In fact, as yields of crops are stepped up, the minor-element contents tend to be diluted. Information is not available for formulating the fertilizer of the exact mineral mixture to insure crops of the proper mineral balance for all livestock needs.

A successful livestock farmer must learn a higher regard for the soil test, and use it more as a guide in applying lime. Too much lime can be harmful. An alkaline soil can place iron, copper, manganese, and zinc into insoluble forms a plant cannot absorb. Too much lime can make some minerals more soluble and easier lost. Extreme heat and cold can also make conditions unfavorable for the use of minor elements by growing plants. Any one or several conditions may make mineral feeding necessary on your farm.

First of all, the scientists suggest, do a good job of farming which will include conservation of the soil, and see if the use of properly balanced rations plus salt won't keep your animals in high-gear production. When mineral feeding becomes necessary, keep it as simple as possible, and feed only those minerals which are in short supply. With rations commonly in use, the addition of salt, calcium, and phosphorus will be all the mineral supplements needed, except for iodine in mountain areas, and possibly copper and cobalt in a few limited areas.

Tests now underway in Virginia indicate that non-legume forage plants in the Coastal Plains, Shenandoah Valley, and Upper Piedmont may be too low in copper to meet the needs of livestock. In these areas forage plants generally contain enough copper for livestock. Likewise, some non-legume pastures in Coastal Virginia are deficient in cobalt. If legumes are also growing in the pastures, cobalt supplies are generally adequate. More research is needed to find whether deficiences actually occur in animals in these areas.

Occasionally, complex mineral mixes are found on the market which contain charcoal and other tonics, purgatives, and remedies. Such shot-gun mixes have no place in practical livestock rations.

Attention to mineral nutrition is more important during the winter-feeding period, if low quality roughages and limited concentrates are used. Grass, sunshine, and access to the soil in summer will make mineral feeding then less necessary than in wintertime with artificial feeding, unless there are trace mineral deficiencies.

Subscription rate: $2.00 a year payable in advance.

GARDEN SUGGESTIONS GIVEN FOR APRIL

Since most season vegetables will be planted during the next six weeks this period is one of great activity for the home gardener.

At this time the garden plot should be plowed and/or disced then harrowed or raked, so that the seed bed is smooth, level, and reasonably fine.

If manure is used it is desirable that it be well rotted and fine textured if planting is to be done shortly after plowing. Fresh manure application is likely to be detrimental to young plants, since the soil will be temporarily void of nitrogen while the manure decays.

Commercial fertilizers may be used to advantage on nearly all gardens. For this area a 5-10-5 analysis is recommended. The rate of application will vary with the present nutrient level of the soil. If the garden plot was wintered over with a cover crop, or if a heavy application of manure was made early in the spring, the rate of commercial fertilizer should be reduced accordingly. For more specific information on garden fertilizers, and the rates of application, contact the office of your county agent.

There is a distinct tendency toward over-fertilization. It does not follow that, if a little fertilizer is good, a lot of fertilizer is better. A lot of fertilizer may burn the plant roots or result in failure of fruit formation.

Plant when the soil is moist. By planting in the late afternoon, newly set plants (tomatoes, peppers, cabbage, etc.) avoid the mid-day heat.

Plant seed judiciously so that the small seed is only covered by one-half inch of fine soil (radishes, turnips, celery, carrots), minimum size seed covered with one inch of soil and larger seed by 1½ to two inches of soil.

In planning a garden, consideration of final plant size may prove important. Plant your tall growing vegetables (corn and pole crops) on the north or west side. This will avoid shading of smaller crops. If due to necessary cultivation, the taller crops must be planted in the center of the garden, more sunlight will be available to all plants by running the rows north and south.

BLACKNOT CONTROL AIDS GIVEN GARDENERS

A disease which makes a black knotty growth on the twigs of cherries and plums often plagues home fruit growers.

John M. Amos, plant disease specialist at VPI, says pruning out all infected spots will help destroy these infestations. He advises making the cuts four to six inches below the knots. Burn the pruned-out twigs immediately; otherwise, they can spread infection. The knots usually show up the second year, so two years of pruning are necessary to make headway against the unsightly disease.

Sprays containing copper, applied for leaf spot control when growth begins, also are helpful in controlling the disease.

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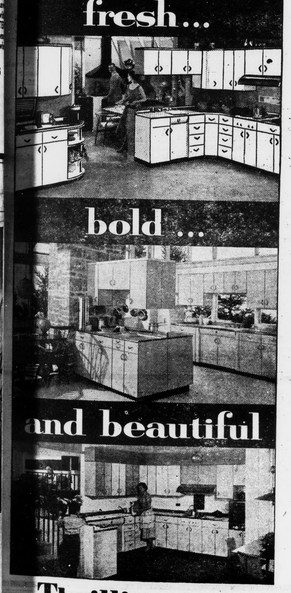

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